**ZMWG Intervention on Mercury waste, in particular the consideration of relevant thresholds**

26, November 2019

Thank you Mr. President,

The Zero Mercury Working Group and ESDO support the outcome of the work of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds. We support the recommendations from the expert group and with the need of intersessional work after COP3, including the recommendation on developing the threshold for industrial non-ferrous mine tailings. We note the broad representation of the experts on the group, and the unanimous support for the recommendations.

Mr. President, paragraph 5 of the draft decision calls upon the waste expert group to “cooperate” with the Basel Convention update process, but does not indicate how this should be accomplished. We suggest strengthening this coordination process in two ways.

First, the Secretariat should request from Parties and other stakeholders information identifying potential gaps in the current Basel guidelines that should be addressed, and other revisions to the Guidelines as needed to improve its utility, by January 31, 2020. This information would help inform the waste expert group engagement with the Basel guideline update.

Second, the COP should request that the secretariat collaborate with the Basel Convention Secretariat to establish a process or otherwise assist the waste expert group “cooperation” with the Basel group performing the guidelines update.

Thank you